



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Rodney Gonzales, Deputy Director *RG*  
Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office (EGRSO)

**COPY:** Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager  
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**DATE:** November 7, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Update regarding planning and preparation efforts for the  
November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Formula 1 U.S. Grand Prix

As you are aware, City departments have been working since January of this year to coordinate planning and preparation for the Formula 1 U.S. Grand Prix to be held November 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. Because of the scope and magnitude of this event, our coordination efforts have also included Travis County, Capital Metro, Circuit of the Americas (COTA), surrounding cities and counties, state agencies, and federal agencies. Collectively, we have made great strides to get ready and to develop plans for unanticipated events that could occur.

This memo serves to provide you an update with regard to the current status of key planning efforts.

### **Public Safety**

- Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)  
HSEM has implemented the Incident Command System (ICS) as a tool for the command, control, and coordination of emergency responses. The ICS provides a common framework whereby multiple agencies can work together effectively to give standard response and operation procedures to reduce problems and the potential for miscommunication. ICS is cost effective because it reduces duplication of efforts.

Part of the ICS involves the establishment of an Area Command and other linked command centers. Otis Latin, HSEM Director, will oversee the Area Command which will be at the Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center and will operate from 5:30 a.m. on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> through 5:00 p.m. on Monday,

November 19<sup>th</sup>. Twice a day during the event weekend, you will receive Situation Reports from HSEM. The reports will provide a high-level brief of activities and responses.

- Joint Information Center (JIC)

Another part of the ICS involves the implementation of a Joint Information Center (JIC). The City's Corporate Public Information Office (CPIO) will lead the JIC operation concurrently with the EOC operation. Through the JIC, CPIO will coordinate and disseminate information from Area Command and all other command centers. CPIO will also coordinate media interviews through the JIC. For this purpose, a media-only line has been established, and the number is **512-974-0699**.

- Austin Police Department (APD)

APD will focus on homeland security, emergency traffic management, and emergency crowd management. APD will establish a Central Command Center (CCC) that is linked to the Area Command, other command centers, the JIC, and the Austin Regional Information Center. APD will utilize traffic management teams and crowd management squads that can be readily deployed to problem areas. Additionally, APD will establish a mobile substation in the area of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue that will be open during the same hours as the Austin Fan Fest festival.

- Austin Fire Department (AFD)

AFD will have command representation at both the Area Command and the CCC for the entire operational period. AFD will have a demand engine company placed at Fire Station 42 during the day (near the COTA site) and near the Downtown area during the evening hours. Additionally, AFD's Structural Collapse cache will be relocated from north Austin to a suitable, more centrally located site that is ready to serve the Downtown area and the COTA site.

- Austin/ Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS)

ATCEMS will have command representation at the Area Command, the CCC, and a command center at the COTA site. ATCEMS is contracted with COTA to provide on-site emergency medical services. ATCEMS will provide advanced life support units, including bicycle and motorcycle medics, within the Downtown area over the weekend as well as providing paramedic staffing at the concert venues for Friday and Saturday.

- Austin 311 and 911

Austin 311 and 911 will be staffed to accommodate the expected increase in phone calls over the event weekend. Austin 311 has created Special Service Request(s) that will be used to track calls from citizens related to the Formula One event.

## **Transportation**

- Aviation

Temporary heliports are being considered at 300 South Congress Avenue (Embassy Suites parking garage) and 901 South Mopac. Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) staff are working with the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), Federal

Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to accommodate the expected increase in passenger and aircraft activity. The ABIA staff have implemented a Prior Permission Required (PPR) system to accommodate charter flights during the event weekend.

- Austin Transportation Department (ATD)

ATD staff will be present at the Area Command, the CCC, and the ATD Traffic Management Center (TMC). Similar to the Area Command, the TMC will operate 24 hours each day over the event period, including Monday. Additionally, ATD will manage its 11 inter-city changeable sign network through the TMC. The TMC gives direct management access to the signal system in Austin.

ATD staff have partnered with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Travis County to develop the transportation plan for the Formula One event. Included in this planning, COTA has contracted with local Clear Channel radio stations to broadcast information relating to transportation over the event weekend. Travis County will have traffic control responsibility for the COTA site. ATD will monitor major routes and intersections within the City that lead to the COTA site. One major area of activity within the City limits will be the park-and-ride location at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (MLK) and Trinity Street. ATD will erect way-finding signage and establish loading and unloading zones for ground transportation at this park-and-ride location.

Within the Downtown area, ATD will erect pedestrian way-finding signage. Additionally, ATD will dynamically manage taxi cab zones in order to increase or reduce taxi cab through-traffic as needed by demand and to properly stage the zone.

- Public Transportation

ATD has partnered with Capital Metro to establish a Downtown Loop bus service that will operate free-of-charge during the event weekend. Over the event weekend, Capital Metro will increase its MetroAirport bus service (Route 100) from 30 minutes to 15 minutes. And, Capital Metro will expand its MetroRail service to include Saturday and Sunday service times.

### **Other Key Areas**

- Cleanliness

COTA will contract for trash, recycling, and litter control for its Austin Fan Fest festival. Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) will place extra trash receptacles on Sixth Street and around the immediate perimeter of Austin Fan Fest. Additionally, ARR will expand its Downtown service area to provide litter control services.

- Austin Energy (AE and Austin Water Utility (AWU)

Both utilities will have crews, equipment, and vehicles staged in key areas that are ready to address service issues.